(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 359 708 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 29.08.2001

- (21) Application No 0022707.4
- (22) Date of Filing 15.09.2000
- (30) Priority Data

(31) 09396693

- (32) 15.09.1999 (33) US
- (71) Applicant(s)

ACTV, Inc.

(Incorporated in USA - Delaware) Suite 2401, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, United States of America

(72) Inventor(s)

Craig D Ullman Jeffrey M Harrington Michael R Abato Carl R Duda

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service

W H Beck, Greener & Co 7 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, LONDON, WC2A 3SZ, **United Kingdom**

(51) INT CL7

H04L 12/28

(52) UK CL (Edition S) **H4P PPBB**

(56) Documents Cited

EP 0163577 A2 WO 99/45726 A1 WO 00/14987 A1

Field of Search

UK CL (Edition S) H4P PPBB PPBC INT CL7 H04L 12/28 Online: WPI, JAPIO, EPODOC

(54) Abstract Title

A distributed community network

(57) A distributed community network 200 provides services to an arbitrarily large community of end users 204, 206, 208 by distributing the load among many machines 210, 212, 214. The network uses hubs 220,222, 224 on the machines for routing packets. The hubs obtain routing instructions from a router 256 and use those instructions for routing the packets. The packets include content for the machines based upon a particular network service, such as a chat service 218 permitting users to interact in chat rooms, or a push/pull service 228 for pushing content to the user machines either directly or based upon information received from the users.

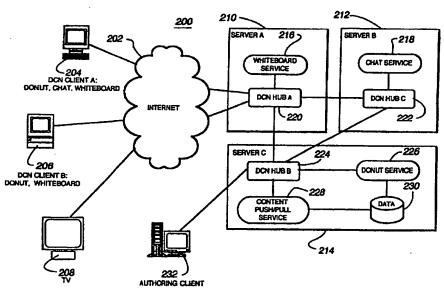


Fig. 10A